

Appl. No. 10/779,962
Amendment dated 07/27/2006
Reply to Office Action of 03/28/2006

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Currently amended)* A process for preparing a water-continuous emulsion of an elastomeric polymer that is essentially free of organic solvents and having a solids content of greater than 75%, an average particle size less than 5 μ m, and having sufficient stability to produce a stable lower solids emulsion upon dilution with water comprising the steps of:

(I) forming a premix comprising;

(A) 100 parts of an elastomeric polymer having a viscosity of

0.5 ~~to~~ 1,000,000 KPa-s and a glass transition temperature up to 50°C,

(B) 3 to 30 parts of a surfactant,

wherein the premix is essentially free of organic solvents,

(II) adding

(C) 5 to 45 parts water to the premix with mixing

thereby forming ~~the~~ a water-continuous emulsion of the elastomeric polymer ~~having a solids content of greater than 75%, an average particle size less than 5 μ m, and having sufficient stability to produce a stable lower solids emulsion upon dilution with water.~~

2. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein the water is added to the premix in incremental portions, whereby each incremental portion comprises less than 8 weight % of the premix and each incremental portion of water is added successively to the previous after the dispersion of the previous incremental portion of water, wherein sufficient incremental portions of water are added to form the water-continuous emulsion of the elastomeric polymer.

3. *(Original)* The process of claim 2 wherein each successive incremental portion of water comprises less than 4 weight % of the premix.

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4. *(Original)* The process of claim 2 wherein each successive incremental portion of water comprises less than 2 weight % of the premix.
5. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein the elastomeric polymer is a silylated copolymer of an isomonoolefin and a vinyl aromatic monomer.
6. *(Original)* The process according to claim 1 wherein the premix further comprises (D) a plasticizer.
7. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein the premix further comprises (E) a low molecular weight acid.
8. *(Original)* The process of claim 6 wherein the premix further comprises (E) a low molecular weight acid.
9. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein 5 to 30 parts of water are added to the premix.
10. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein 5 to 20 parts of water are added to the premix.
11. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of;

(III) mixing additional water to the water-continuous emulsion of the elastomer polymer to form a diluted emulsion of the elastomer polymer.
12. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein the mixing is provided by a continuous mixer.
13. *(Original)* The process of claim 12 wherein the continuous mixer is an extruder.

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14. *(Original)* The process of claim 1 wherein the mixing is provided by a batch mixer.

15. *(Currently amended)* A process for preparing a water-continuous emulsion of an elastomeric polymer comprising the steps of:

(I) forming a premix comprising;

(A) 100 parts of an elastomeric polymer having a viscosity of

0.5 to 1,000,000 KPa-s and a glass transition temperature up to 50°C,

(B) 3 to 30 parts of a surfactant,

(II) adding

(C) 5 to 45 parts water to the premix with mixing

thereby forming a water-continuous emulsion of the elastomeric polymer having a solids content of greater than 75%, an average particle size less than 5 μm , and having sufficient stability to produce a stable lower solids emulsion upon dilution with water,

wherein the water is added to the premix in incremental portions; whereby each incremental portion comprises less than 8 weight % of the premix and each incremental portion of water is added successively to the previous after the dispersion of the previous incremental portion of water, wherein sufficient incremental portions of water are added to form the water-continuous emulsion of the elastomeric polymer.

16. *(Canceled)*.

17. *(Canceled)*.

18. *(Canceled)*.

19. *(Canceled)*.

20. *(Canceled)*.

21. *(Canceled)*.